

Office Action Summary

Application No.
08/971,172

Applicant(s)
Goodman et al.

Examiner
John K. Weatherspoon

Group Art Unit
1645



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Sep 18, 1998

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 4-6 and 8 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 4-6 and 8 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicants' response to the restriction requirement and election of Group II, claims 4-6 and 8, was received on 9/18/98 and entered into the record as Paper No. 5.

Drawings

2. This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only. The drawings are objected to by the draftsman under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 or 1.152. See PTO-948 for details. Correction of the noted defects can be deferred until the application is allowed by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. Claims 4-6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. As said claims read on EST yq76e12 as a limitation (wherein pending claims 4-6 read on EST yq76e12 when examined to include all the limitations of non-elected claim 1), the specification (for example, pages 10-12, 20 and 33) lacks complete deposit information for the deposit of EST yq76e12 as instantly claimed. Because it is not clear that said EST yq76e12 is known and publicly available or can be reproducibly isolated from nature without undue experimentation and because the claims recite EST yq76e12 as limitation, a suitable deposit for

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patent purposes is required. Accordingly, filing of evidence of the reproducible production of EST yq76e12 as claimed is required. Without a publicly available deposit of EST yq76e12], one of ordinary skill in the art could not be assured of the ability to practice the invention as claimed. Exact replication of EST yq76e12 is an unpredictable event.

Applicant's referral to Accession Numbers H52936 and H52937 (page 33 of the specification) for said EST yq76e12 in the specification is an insufficient assurance that all required deposits have been made and all the conditions of 37 CFR §1.801-1.809 have been met.

If the deposit has been made under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty, filing of an affidavit or declaration by applicant or assignees or a statement by an attorney of record who has authority and control over the conditions of deposit over his or her signature and registration number stating that the deposit has been accepted by an International Depository Authority under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty and that all restrictions upon public access to the deposit will be irrevocably removed upon the grant of a patent on this application. These requirements are necessary when deposits are made under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty as the Treaty leaves this specific matter to the discretion of each State. Amendment of the specification to recite date of deposit and the complete name and full street address of the depository is required.

If the deposits have not been made under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty, then in order to certify that the deposits comply with the criteria set forth in 37 CFR §1.801-1.809, assurances regarding availability and permanency of deposits are required. Such assurance may be in the form of an affidavit or declaration by applicants or assignees or in the form of a

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statement by an attorney of record who has the authority and control over the conditions of deposit over his or her signature and registration number averring:

(a) during the pendency of this application, access to the deposits will be afforded to the Commissioner upon request;

(b) all restrictions upon the availability to the public of the deposited biological material will be irrevocably removed upon the granting of a patent on this application;

(c) the deposits will be maintained in a public depository for a period of at least thirty years from the date of deposit or for the enforceable life of the patent or for a period of five years after the date of the most recent request for the furnishing of a sample of the deposited biological material, whichever is longest; and

(d) the deposits will be replaced if they should become nonviable or non-replicable.

In addition, a deposit of biological material that is capable of self-replication either directly or indirectly must be viable at the time of deposit and during the term of deposit.

Viability may be tested by the depository. The test must conclude only that the deposited material is capable of reproduction. A viability statement for each deposit of a biological

material not made under the Budapest Treaty must be filed in the application and must contain:

- 1) The name and address of the depository;
- 2) The name and address of the depositor;
- 3) The date of deposit;
- 4) The identity of the deposit and the accession number given by the depository;
- 5) The date of the viability test;
- 6) The procedures used to obtain a sample if the test is not done by the depository; and
- 7) A statement that the deposit is capable of reproduction.

As a possible means for completing the record, applicant may submit a copy of the contract with the depository for deposit and maintenance of each deposit.

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If the deposit was made after the effective filing date of the application for patent in the United States, a verified statement is required from a person in a position to corroborate that said EST yq76e12 described in the specification as filed is the same as that deposited in the depository. Corroboration may take the form of a showing of a chain of custody from applicant to the depository coupled with corroboration that the deposit is identical to the biological material described in the specification and in the applicant's possession at the time the application was filed.

Applicant's attention is directed to In re Lundack, 773 F.2d. 1216, 227 USPQ 90 (CAFC 1985) and 37 CFR §1.801-1.809 for further information concerning deposit practice.

4. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The term "specifically hybridize" in claim 8 is a relative term which renders the claims indefinite. The specification (for example, pages 14-15) does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree of what constitutes specific hybridization, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

5. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 8 recites the limitation "the sequence defined by the corresponding opposite strand". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

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Claim Objections

6. Claims 4-6 are objected to as being of improper dependent form for depending on a non-elected claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wilson et al (Nature 368 (6466):32-38, 1994)). Wilson et al disclose a contiguous nucleic acid sequence from *C.elegans* having at least 24 consecutive bases of instantly claimed SEQ ID NO:5, further wherein said sequence hybridizes with a nucleic acid sequence defined by the corresponding opposite strand as instantly claimed; the limitations of claim 8 are anticipated by the prior art.

9. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Marra et al (The WashU-HHMI Mouse Project, GenBank Accession No. AA499193, public availability date 7/2/97; see cited reference in PTO-892). As the nucleic acid sequence disclosed by Marra et al meets all the limitations of claim 8 as stated, i.e. said disclosed sequence fully anticipates SEQ

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ID NO:11, further wherein said disclosed sequence hybridizes with a nucleic acid sequence defined by the corresponding opposite strand as claimed, claim 8 is anticipated by the prior art.

Status of Claims

10. No claim is allowed.

11. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this general application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Papers relating to this application may be submitted to Technology center 1600, Group 1645 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). Should applicant wish to FAX a response, the current FAX number for Group 1645 is (703) 308-4242.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Weatherspoon, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (703) 305-0557. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Caputa, Ph.D., can be reached at (703) 308-3995.

John Weatherspoon, Ph.D.

February 25, 1999



Anthony Caputa, Ph.D.

Supervisory Primary Examiner

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